

Application No. 10/664,776
Reply to Office Action dated August 4, 2006
Reply to Office Action of June 30, 2006

invention. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the Examiner's rejection of claims 8-13, 15-19, and 24-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Estes has been overcome.

The Examiner rejected claims 20-23, 28, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Estes; and rejected claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Estes in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,085,660 to Lin. Applicant submits that the rejections over claims 14, 20-23, 28, and 29 are rendered moot at least because they depend from an allowable independent claim, or claims dependent therefrom.

Applicant submits that independent claims 8 and 24 are patentable and that dependent claims 9-23 and 25-29 dependent from one of independent claims 8 and 24, or claims dependent therefrom, are patentable at least due to their dependency from an allowable independent claim.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are patentable. Therefore, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider the outstanding rejections in view of the preceding comments. Issuance of a timely Notice of Allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited.

To the extent any extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is required to obtain entry of this reply, such extension is hereby respectfully requested. If there are any fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 which are not enclosed herewith, including any fees required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-3726.

Respectfully submitted,
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